Musket

Vol. XXVIII, No. 4 | Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. | March 7, 1995

Physics teacher Mr. "Love-Stud" O'Reilly accepts a fourth 'Singing Valentine' from his wife.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

LHS Drug Use Out of Control

Survey shows national trend of rising teen narcotic abuse.

by
Adam Bund and Matt Kishlansky
with help from Kiran Raj

Recently, a University of Michigan survey revealed that drug use nation wide has increased dramatically. 30.7% of high school seniors surveyed indicated that they had tried marijuana at least once, up 4.7% from 1993, and 8.2% from 1992. Additionally, 46% of seniors said they had sampled some "hard core" drugs, such as cocaine, LSD, or heroin.

One LHS senior felt these figures were representative of the situation at our high school. He noted that, "it's the kind of problem that is easy to ignore because it's not right out in the open. But everyone's still doing it."

The survey predicts a grim future. It found that 13% of eighth graders had tried marijuana, a 6.2% increase from 1991. Indeed, one LHS junior wasn't surprised in the least. "When we were freshmen, we didn't know about the drug problem at all," she noted. "We didn't start until the middle of last year. These freshmen got started early. They're at all the parties, and they're not just observing."

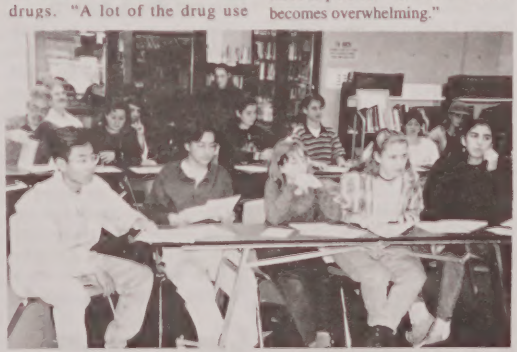
The majority of those interviewed for this story said that the number of students who drink alcohol at the high school is far greater than those who use illegal drugs. When polled on what percentage of LHS students have tried alcohol, the estimates varied from 30% to 70% (each percentage point represents approximately 14.5 students). One student said there was a direct correlation between alcohol and drugs. "A lot of the drug use occurs at parties over the weekends. People usually come to the parties to drink, but then they find people getting baked [smoking marijuana], and they want to try it."

Another student blamed the drug problem among the freshman and sophomore classes on the two areas just off of school grounds where students gather to smoke cigarettes. "When you were in middle school there was a certain group of kids that you looked up to. When you get to the high school, you see them on the smokers' corner, or behind the (student) parking lot, smoking butts. For freshman I think the message is clear: this is what the in-crowd does. So when the freshmen show up at parties and see these people getting stoned, they want to try it too."

The University of Michigan survey came to a similar conclusion, finding that a glorification of drug use by the media and popular culture was partially to blame. Students agreed, citing movies such as Dazed and Confused, Drugstore Cowboy, and Pulp Fiction as examples.

When asked to name the types of drugs used at LHS, students produced a frightening list. Among the substances abused include marijuana, cocaine, mushrooms, opium, and LSD.

Madame Girondel noted that she was, "especially concerned about drug use in the ninth and tenth grade...I've noticed that the quality and commitment to their work has been affected by drug use. Some of them don't care about school anymore, their friends become more important. The social scene becomes overwhelming."



The Student Senate has been working hard on a number of important bills.

Photo by Jay Premack

Search for New Principal Underway Nationwide

by
Offer Egozy

The search for a principal to fill the opening left by current Principal David Wilson, who will be Director of Personnel for the Lexington Public Schools, is underway. Superintendent Jeffrey Young is trying to make the entire school and town community part of the process through the formation of a Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) that will help him make the appointment of the new principal, hopefully by early May.

The Committee will be composed of thirteen members representing the High School's faculty and students, the community, and it will include retiring assistant superintendent for personnel and administration Mr. Richard Barnes. The SAC will review all applications and narrow the field of applicants to eight or ten people that it wishes to interview. This pool will then be narrowed to three or four finalists. Teams of SAC members will be sent to these finalists' home schools to see what they are like "at home," explained Young. Then, the finalists will each spend a day at Lexington High. Young explained that he will then conduct a final interview and make the final decision about the new principal.

Young emphasizes the importance of choosing the best possible principal. "The principal has a great deal of responsibility. He or she is primarily responsible for supervision of staff, oversight of the curriculum, management of the curriculum, meeting the needs of the students, communicating with the parents, and facilitating transitions from the two middle schools to the High School. The list of responsibility is endless."

With this responsibility, however, comes opportunity for a potential principal. "LHS is a place with a very strong faculty and staff, and a student body that is generally deeply interested in learning. We also have a parent community that is passionate about what their kids do or don't do," Young explained. "The principals job is to take those three constituencies and to get them all on the same path towards excellence."

Beyond overseeing the school and facilitating community involvement in the schools, Young emphasized that establishing a school "culture" is also vitally important. "One of the most important leadership roles of the principal is builder of school culture." Young would like to see the new principal establish "certain norms of behavior that suggest a value system that shows what we feel is important...The principal's job is to identify what these norms are...and to help devise a plan to implement them."

Inside

History Day Hits LHS
For the first time in the High School's history, Lexington played host to History Day. *Page 3.*

990 Not Bad
More school hours will not be such a bad thing argues junior Margot Minardi. *Page 4.*

Jazz Nite Redux
Director Jeffrey Leanord pulled off the year's second Jazz Nite without a hitch. *Page 5*

Basketball Cooks
Both the girls' and boys' basketball teams have continued their seasons with playoff victories. *Page 7,8.*

Senate's Bills Spark Discussion

by
Steve Pawlicek and
Offer Egozy

Having already passed an unprecedented number of bills into law this year, the Senate now confronts many new bills and has even entered into discussion of its continuance next year.

In its February 28 meeting, the Senate postponed a vote on the Sophomore Open Campus Bill due to faulty research. The bill proposes to give sophomores open campus if they maintained a 3.0 grade point average. Also, the much anticipated Smoking Corner Bill was defeated in a vote. Proposed by Jason Miller, this bill would have prohibited students from congregating at the corner of Muzzey and Park streets if the cleanliness of the area did not improve.

SENATE, Page 2

The Lexington School Committee is soon expected to adopt legislation to promote Affirmative Action in the hiring of minority teachers and administrators.

Photo by April Bovet

School to Adopt Aff. Action Policy Shortly

by
Margot Minardi

Lexington Public Schools' Diversity Task Force is closer than ever to securing approval for its Affirmative Action Policy for the entire school system. The policy, which heralds "equal employment opportunity" as a "fundamental right of all persons," is designed to encourage racial diversity in the schools, especially within the recruitment and hiring process. It is expected to pass without difficulty when the School Committee considers it.

Task Force member Kay Bell explained that although school administrators have been internally debating affirmative action for several years, much of the work was slow, prompting community members to form their own group a year ago. The Diversity Task Force, under the supervision of Assistant Superintendent Richard Barnes, examined the affirmative action policies of other schools and the Town of Lexington as they pieced together an original plan to create a racially diverse staff that "reflects the composition of the student population."

Senior Rupa Mukherjee, student representative to the School Committee, added that the plan has been read in public meetings twice since last fall. These readings come as concerns that Lexington needs to foster diversity are growing. In early February, the Boston *Globe* published Massachusetts Department of Education statistics that revealed that although the raw numbers of minority students in the Lexington schools increased from 1990 to 1994, the number of minority teachers decreased. In 1994, 19.8% of the student body, but only 1.6% of teachers, were members of racial minorities.

Bell noted that in the past, some minority candidates have been offered teaching positions in Lexington but have chosen jobs in other towns. One of the Diversity Task Force's goals is to make the Lexington schools more welcoming to teachers and students of diverse backgrounds. Efforts to this end include professional development on issues of diversity, union contract changes to make teaching jobs more attractive, and more open dialogue for cultural concerns.

The Task Force suffered a mild setback when the School Committee decided to only consider the broadly philosophical Affirmative Action Policy Statement. The Committee ruled that the more specific Affirmative Action Plan, which details procedures for carrying out the Policy Statement's goals, should be referred to the Superintendent, who would be responsible for implementing the policy if approved. Despite this small and surprising problem, Bell predicts that, due to the "generally positive" responses from the School Committee and the community at large to the policy readings, the Affirmative Action Policy will be easily approved.

Student Senate Bills Abound

SENATE

Continued from page 1

However, because of the debate sparked by the bill the Senate Policy Committee will begin to evaluate "why we have smoking on school grounds in the first place," noted Senate Secretary Alyssa Rayman-Read. State law prohibits all smoking on school grounds which seems make the bill moot. "If smokers cannot lawfully smoke on school grounds how can we punish them for not cleaning up after an illegal activity?" Rayman-Read explained. The Policy Committee will try to research the reasons the school administration has allowed smoking on school grounds when it is illegal. A new bill or resolution addressing that problem may come from the committee. "All smokers in the school should know what's going on. A whole community in the school could be eliminated as a result of enforcement of the state laws...Although the bill is dead, the issue is still alive," noted Rayman-Read.

In addition, the Senate recently passed the Search and Seizure Bill. Proposed by Jonas Woolverton, the bill requires the administration to distribute copies of its search and seizure policy. The Administration had previously failed to adequately publicize the policy. The bill calls for distribution of an outline detailing the search and seizure policy with special emphasis on how it affects students. "[The bill] helps to clarify the laws and policies of the school," explained Rayman-Read.

The Senate voted down a bill which would have provided a mechanism for the Senate to adjourn promptly at 2:25 while having the ability to continue discussion and not rush to vote on various measures in a race to beat the clock. "The intention of the bill was to make sure Senate doesn't rush decisions. A couple of senators often move to vote on various bills before the Senate has had enough time to analyze and discuss the given bills. The effect is irresponsible legislation," noted Rayman-Read. The bill was voted down due to logistical problems it would have created when the Senate would try to close a given discussion. However, "the issue was brought up and many Senators now better understand it."

The Senate also began discussion, sparked by Jonas Woolverton, of the lack of vegetarian food options presented by the Marriot Food Corp. The Senate decided more research was necessary to determine exactly who is affected and what could be done.

"It is important that students have a voice in school policy. It would be a shame if Senate were to peter out next year."

-Secretary
Alyssa Rayman-Read

Also discussed was the Senate's future. The recent Massachusetts Education Reform Act requires an increase in the number of hours of schooling students must receive. It would almost certainly eliminate many free periods and will probably eliminate X-Block, the period each Wednesday created for the Senate to meet. "It is important that students have a voice in school policy. It would be a shame if Senate were to peter out next year," explained Rayman-Read. "We need to discuss how next year's Senate will deal with this issue." However, senior Moderator Dan MacLean noted, "With or without X-Block, the Senate will continue."

Moderator Dan MacLean heads this years Student Senate, also known as the "Bill Factory."

Photo by Josh Vacanti

News Briefs

LHS Jazz to Compete at Berklee Festival

On Saturday March 4, Lexington High School, under the direction of Jeffrey Leonard and Brian Connel, will compete in the Berklee College of Music Jazz Festival.

The festival is the largest of its kind in the country, featuring more 3000 musicians.

Members of Berklee's internationally recognized faculty will conduct the Festival's wide variety of clinics and workshops and participate in the evaluations.

Highlights of the festival will include performances by Berklee's Woody Herman Ensemble, jazz fusion group Heart & Fire, the New England All-Star High School Band, and a student jam session open to all festival participants.

The festival will culminate with presentation of Best Band trophies, citation plaques and tuition scholarships totalling $100,000.

Musket Wins Award

Recently the Lexington High School *Musket* received a first place ranking in the 1994 American Scholastic Press Association student publications competition.

Last year's staff was headed by editor-in-chief Ivan Chan, who is currently attending the University of Chicago. "You should feel very proud of this accomplishment," wrote Robin Sitten Assistant Director of Student Activities at Simmons College.

Science Fair at LHS

On Wednesday, March 8, the Science Department will hold its annual Science Fair to determine which Lexington students will represent the school at the Region IV Science Fair in Sommerville, which will be held on April 1. The awards ceremony, which will feature various prizes and scholarships donated by local companies and charitable individuals, will be held March 10 in the Science Lecture Hall at 2:30.

Top finishers at the Region IV Fair will continue on to compete at the Massachusetts State Science Fair held at M.I.T. in the Spring. Also, the first place finisher at Sommerville will represent Region IV at the International Science and Engineering Fair during the summer.

Last year Lexington sent two representatives, senior Matthew Nichols and Harvard freshman Yvonne Ou, to the International Fair.

Compiled by Offer Egozy

Principal David Wilson has recently accepted the position of Director of Personell and Administration.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

Wilson Tenure Illicits Diverse Evaluations

by
Erika Dahlin-Lee

On Tuesday January 17, Principal David Wilson announced to the High School that he would be resigning in order to become the Director of Personnel and Administration of the Lexington School Systems. Mr. Wilson has been principal for six years and has served at the High School in various capacities for 30 years.

Mr. Wilson's impending departure as principal has provoked a great deal of discussion, especially amongst teachers. His actions as principal have garnered both praise and criticism from his staff.

One point of agreement is Wilson's competence in administrative affairs. He is generally recognized for his aptitude in running the High School in a highly efficient manner. He also has demonstrated skills in outreach to community organizations and as a diplomat for the High School. He also has shown excellent judgment concerning the recruitment and hiring of new teachers.

Many teachers also commended Wilson for his ability to stay on task. Superintendent Jeffrey Young outlined principal objectives, including an improvement in school culture and school spirit, the effective use of community organizations, and the diversification of teaching staff, all of which Mr. Wilson has striven to achieve or has outlined as goals for his future position. Through his six years he has managed to maintain and retain an extremely competent faculty even in the face of a plethora of retirements in recent years.

These skills are the primary reason for Wilson's move to the Central Office as Director of Personnel and Administration, a job that requires community outreach and faculty oversight. "I am expecting to use a number of skills that I think he demonstrates...I'm hiring him because I think he brings excellent organizational skills, management abilities, a very solid knowledge of the history of the town and other assorted skills and abilities that are relevant to this position...I think he will serve very well," explained Dr. Young.

"I'm hiring [David Wilson] because I think he brings excellent organizational skills, management abilities, a very solid knowledge of the history of the town and other assorted skills."

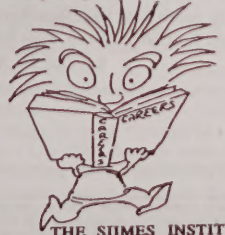
-Superintendent Jeffrey Young

Several teachers noted a the lack of significant changes in the high school's educational approach during Wilson's tenure. Students have found options for their education limited.

English teacher Richard Shohet explained that, "Mr. Wilson has seemed to embark on a more custodial course than one of change and innovation." Debate teacher Les Phillips noted that, "Every reform or change

WILSON, Page 6

"PATHWAY TO ACHIEVEMENT": A SEMINAR
(designed specifically for high school students)



What should I study in college?

What career am I aiming for?

Do I know what I really want to do?

What industry will I enjoy most?

Can I make a successful living doing what I really want to do?

This seminar is designed to help you through these decisions and more!

Money Back Guarantee!

THE SIIMES INSTITUTE FOR CAREER CHOICE
617-322-9816 (ask for Allison)
(if you receive the answering machine, please leave a message, I ALWAYS return calls.)

LHS History Day is First One Ever

by
Sarah Park

Thanks to the dedicated work of Mr. Samuel Kafrissen, Lexington High School was the proud sponsor of its own National History Day on February 8.

" I know that all who entered [History Day] went over each and every detail [of their project] with a fine toothed toothbrush. Mr. Kafrissen has really done the students a service by bringing History Day to LHS."

-Senior Kunal G. Mehra

The Day featured a competition, which was based on the central theme of "Conflict and Compromise" and was broken down into four categories: media, historical paper, performance, and three dimensional project.

Senior Kunal G. Mehra, a participant and winner in the History Day, noted: "Perhaps the best aspect of History Day was the interview in front of a panel of three judges. This interview gave each competitor the opportunity to display his or her knowledge and passion for history and it gave all of us a chance to show the judges the multidinous hours involved with such a laborious task. I know that all who entered went over each and every detail with a fine toothed toothbrush. Mr. Kafrissen has really done the students a service by bringing History Day to LHS."

Of the forty seven entries fourteen were chosen to advance to the regional competition which will be held in Belmont on March 2. These winners were sophomore Mike Chen, sophomore Sarah Dougherty, sophomore Jesse Herman, Cynthia Lin, sophomore Rochelle Mackey, senior Kunal G. Mehra junior Margot Minardi, sophomore Betsy O'Neill, junior Steve Pawlicek, junior Leah Platt, senior Mali Sastri, sophomore Felicia Kuo, sophomores Jessica Carlisle and Allison Kraley, and sophomore Keegan Uhl.

Junior Andy Mckenzie stands by his project at Lexington's first annual History Day.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

NHS Begins to Serve Community Needs

by
Nancy Hsiung and Angela Kung

At Lexington High School, the National Honor Society (NHS) continues its tradition of uniting students for the purpose of doing community service. Founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, NHS still selects members based on their scholarship, leadership, citizenship, service, and character. Using these qualities as criteria, fifty-six seniors out of 100 nominees were chosen. Every member must complete twenty-seven hours of community service by the end of the school year, then of which must be completed in time for the Induction Ceremony on March 9.

Under the leadership of President Alyssa Rayman-Read and Secretary Geertrui Spaepen, and the supervision of Assistant Principals Arthur Dulong and Diane Lande, NHS tries to provide a forum for civic minded students to coalesce into a team that will help the local community. "People work more productively in groups than as individuals," noted Spaepen.

In order to diversify and expand the activities performed by NHS, members have divided into four main committees. Christine Ko leads the Soup Kitchen Committee, which help cook and serve food at soup kitchens in the local area. The Inner-City Volunteer Committee is run by Jonas Woolverton and Sarah Welch. It perform various tasks throughout Boston focusing on inner-city youth. Also, Robin King heads a committee dedicated to providing furniture to various shelters focusing specifically on aiding domestic abuse victims. Lily Talakoub chairs the Blood Drive Committee, which has scheduled a drive at LHS on April 13.

Every year NHS holds an induction ceremony in which all students who were part of NHS are officially inducted into the society. This year the ceremony will take place on March 9 in the Science Lecture Hall. The guest speaker, as selected by student vote, will be biology teacher Margaret Schwartz.

NHS has already begun to revitalize the local community as evidenced by the Inner-City Volunteer Committee recent escapade to the Sommerville Coalition for the Homeless on February 23. Members cleaned and painted bathrooms, organized the kitchen and food pantry, and did office work. "It was a rewarding day," noted chair Woolverton. "The manager of the shelter and the residents were very appreciative."

"It is nice to know that charity is not futile," stated member Rupa Mukherjee following the days proceedings.

About NHS in general, Woolverton concluded, "It's corny, but it's honorable because it emphasizes the importance of community service."

The More the Better

990 Hours Won't Hurt

This kind of thing pierces the hearts of those who proudly inhabit the Birthplace of American Liberty. The orders arrive via Boston with neither warning nor plans: just bare, expensive demands to be immediately fulfilled by the rurals and townspeople throughout the Commonwealth. The Redcoats have returned, only this time they come in the benevolent guise of Massachusetts state bureaucrats.

Lexington High School's response to the recent Massachusetts Board of Education ruling (rumored to be called "the Second Intolerable Act" by history buffs in B-House) suggests that the conditions of 1776 prevail once again. To many, 990 hours of school seems at least as grave an assault to freedom, as, say, British tariffs or quartering requirements or port closings. But is the threat of a few more school days a cause for armed rebellion? Probably not, although the state's required reforms have the potential to effect a much-needed revolution in education.

"But more isn't better!" cry the Sons (and Daughters) of Liberty. True. Any school system that championed more hours as the solution to all its education dilemmas would be dangerously confused. Even the statistics that compare Japan's 243-day school year and sky-high test scores to 180 days and paltry academic achievement in the United States are somewhat circumspect. Social and political priorities in foreign countries, as well as the differing structure of school systems, certainly influence students' performances in the classroom. Yet there is still strength in numbers; benefits of more time in school far exceed the disadvantages.

More hours means more time for innovation. Prominent advocates of school reform often call for longer school days and years to provide greater academic flexibility. Interdisciplinary learning, cooperative enterprise, and original research - some of the trademarks of new education proposals - do not always fit well in a rigid six-hour day.

More hours in school means more time to learn. That present time constraints limit the course of education is very clear at LHS, where each spring teachers and students feel pressured to complete the last 450 pages of an 800 page textbook in just a few months. Former gubernatorial candidate and state legislator Michael Barret, in a well-known 1990 article in the Atlantic Monthly, cited an Opportunity to Learn study that revealed that high school seniors in Japan had been taught to solve 92 percent of the problems on an advanced mathematics exam, while their American counterparts had only learned 54 percent. He also references studies of teachers in the two countries and notes that teachers in Japan routinely spend more time explaining lessons and less time worrying that they will never get through the curriculum.

More hours means more time for innovation. Prominent advocates of school reform, including Brown University's Theodore Sizer, often call for longer school days and years to provide greater academic flexibility. Interdisciplinary learning, cooperative enterprise, and original research - some of the trademarks of new education proposals - do not always fit well in a rigid six-hour day. The Board of Education's 990-hour mandate was accompanied by the state legislature's Education Reform Act, which focuses on statewide academic standards under the "Common Core of Learning." Though the Act has its shortcomings, it does provide an opportunity (if Lexington chooses to accept it) to truly change the way high school works. A lengthened school year to create and nurture any such changes can hardly be disdained.

The most repugnant argument against the now-famous 990 is the smug statement of teachers, parents, students, or administrators that "these changes weren't meant for Lexington, of course." In their zeal to preserve liberty and summer vacation, these opponents of educational reform have forgotten another tenet of democracy in America: the endless process of self-improvement. When we proclaim that we can not get better, we are in a serious state indeed.

-Margot Minardi

Principal Search Provides Unique Opportunity for LHS

Lexington High School has been presented with a unique and valuable opportunity. The Superintendent and his Select Advisory Committee have already begun to search for a new principal for the High School. They will have a chance to evaluate the needs of the High School and select a candidate that has the qualities to address those needs.

The problems the High School faces today are not rooted in a lack of quality teachers or a dearth of community support. Rather the primary problem at LHS seems to be a lack of school culture and community. Students seem apathetic about learning. "A large number of students in school have no particular interest in becoming whatever it is they they're studying...When you sever that connection, it's very hard for kids to be passionate about learning," noted Deborah Meier, Co-Director of Central Park East Secondary School in a recent issue of Educational Leadership.

The high school principal can and should spark school culture, and with it, a deeply interested student body and staff. Dr. Van Seasholes, Principal of Newton South High School, seems to have done that at Newton South. For example, Dr. Seasholes attends at least one of each sports teams games. All the students know him and appreciate the time he takes out of his schedule and his life for them. Also, he takes direct involvement with his students by teaching a class. Teaching a class also serves to keep him in touch with his staff of teachers. This focus on connecting with the students and teachers of his school has helped to create a sense of community at Newton South that is not present at LHS.

Seasholes' approach to 'leadership' seems best characterized as "transformational." Kenneth Leithwood, Head of the Center for Leadership Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, described this type of leadership as a, "radically different form of power...A form of power manifested *through* other people, not *over* other people." This type of facilitative power, according to Leithwood, can help create a shared vision, improving communication, and developing collaborative decision-making processes. Studies indicate that the effectiveness of transformational leadership in creating a more positive school environment is "substantial and positive."

The power of the principal to affect and alter the entire nature of a school's culture and community is vast. "In schools where [transformational leadership] has been achieved, we found that teaching and learning became transformative for everyone involved," wrote Richard Sagor, Assistant Professor at Washington State University. His study of several extremely effective high school principals revealed that they had one thing in common: "a transformational effect on the professional who work within the shadow of their leadership. They also share certain behaviors. Each principal endeavors to visit each classroom every day, practices active listening, and views teaching as an experimental science."

A distinction between this type of 'soft' leadership and the traditional 'full steam-ahead' leadership based on quick changes must be made. "Principals would do more lasting good for schools if they concentrated on building collaborative cultures rather than charging forcefully in with heavy agendas for change," explained Michael Fullan, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Toronto University. A candidate with ideas for sweeping reforms would not be a candidate that addresses the specific needs of Lexington High School.

David Wilson leaves the principal position having hired and retained one of the best groups of teachers in the country. The administration and teaching bureaucracy is in place. The problems that need to be addressed now have to do with the school's culture. Deciding on a new principal is a monumental decision. The superintendent and his advisory committee would be wise to focus on seeking a principal with who can exert positive, facilitative leadership, not just an agenda for bureaucratic changes. If they succeed,the stage will be set for a transformation at LHS and thus the continuation of a long tradition of excellence. Ultimately, the new principal will hold the key to this future.

Such unsigned editorials express the general opinions of the entire Musket editorial board.

Musket

Editor-in-Chief ..... Offer Egozy
Layout Editor ..... Kunal G. Mehra
News Editors ..... Andrew Sung
Jason Harris
Sports Editor ..... Stefanie Berman
Business Manager ..... Margot Minardi
Editorials Editors ..... Kit Connolly
Sam Handlin
Features Editors ..... Erin Carlson
Amy Lowenthal
Copy Editors ..... Sriram Krishnamurthy
Matthew Nichols
Photography Editors ..... Josh Vacanti
April Bovet
Art Editor ..... David Myung

* * *

Faculty Advisor ..... Sam Kafrissen
Printer ..... Belmont Printing Company

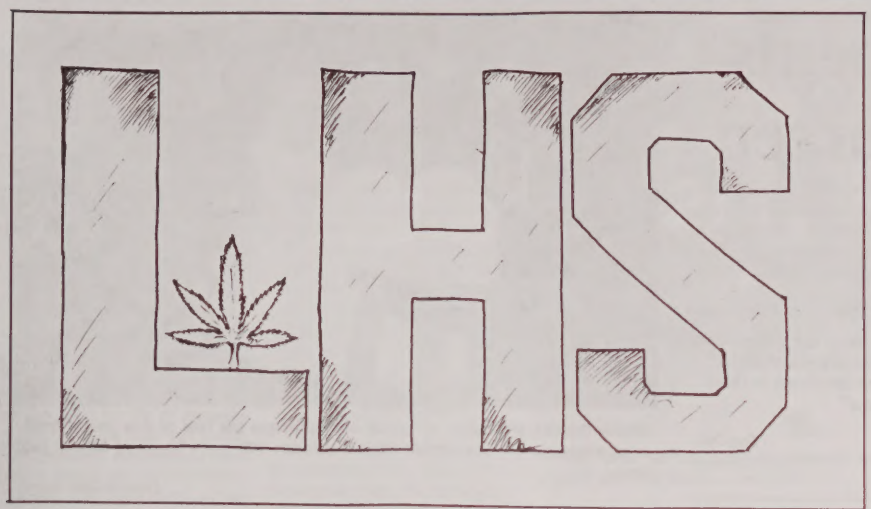
* * *

Reporters ..... Ron Abrons, Adam Bund, Erika Dahlin-Lee, Nancy Hsiung, Matt Kishlansky, Brian Koning, Angela Kung, Shira Miller-Jacobs, Jeff Needham, Phil Oliff, Sarah Park, Steve Pawlicek, Kiran Raj, J.R. Rudman

Photographer ..... Jay Premack

Copyright © 1995 Lexington High School *Musket*. All rights reserved.

The opinions expressed on these editorial pages are the views of either the *Musket* editorial board or of individual staff members. They are not necessarily a reflection of school policy, nor are they intended to mirror the ideas of every student. Therefore, *Musket* realizes its responsibility to print other opinions. Leave short, tasteful letters to the editor in the *Musket* mailbox in the LHS Student Activities Center. Only signed letters will ordinarily be printed. *Musket* reserves the right to edit for length.



Letters to the Editor

Editor responds to allegations of *Musket* gender bias

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the January 25 letter by Ms. Loraine Ward regarding the Musket's "Gender Inequity."

The accusation of sexism in the Musket both shocked and appalled me. For the two years that I have worked on the editorial staff, I have always considered the Musket impartial if not committed to the cause of equity. However, in the process of layout and editing we have never considered "picture counting." In fact, we simply select the pictures of the highest quality from those submitted for the issue. We never bothered to pay attention to such a trite detail as "counting."

Gender equity is a real issue and merits concern from all people. However, we do not need to revert to "picture counting" to achieve progress. Such ludicrous methods disguise the problem and give ammunition to the people who mock the goal of gender equity. Equal numbers of pictures does not equal parity. To use an example given by one of my teachers (in an unrelated subject), if in the Musket there was a picture of one hundred girls, say doing laundry or something else stereotypically female, would that mean that the issue had attributed sufficient space to women. I think not.

In retrospect, I find Ms. Ward's comments slightly offensive and perhaps sexist in themselves. She notes that the issue in question contains "mostly boys doing something such as playing hockey, football or being interviewed," implying that these are "boy" things. In her next sentence she refers to "cheerleaders," using the word essentially as a synonym for "girl." Sure, some girls may be cheerleaders, as some boys may play hockey or football, but could it be that perhaps, the photographs in question were simply the best that we could procure for this particular issue.

It is unfortunate that random chance made the issue "male dominated," but unfortunately society still functions in that manner. Sexism lies deeply rooted in society. The press is a vehicle for change. It is unfortunate that the efforts in Lexington have shifted the blame of society's ills to the exact people who work so hard for change. My writing this letter is not an attempt to pass the blame back onto Ms. Ward's shoulders. My sole purpose is her understanding that in order to gain true progress, we must work together, not against one another, pointing fingers. Gender equity has become, in essence a political issue. As with many other important issues, the debate quickly becomes atomized, and attentions become focused on selecting an enemy. The real issue gets lost. In our struggle to gain gender equity, we are not fighting a war against one another. We are allies, and we need to keep it that way, or our efforts will be obliterated.

-Erin Carlson
Class of 1995

Health Coordinator defends Life Skills, corrects misstatements.

Dear Editor,

After having spent at least two hours over two separate meetings discussing Life Skills class with David Eisner, I was shocked and dismayed to read Mr. Eisner's letter in the January 25th Musket. Certainly, Mr. Eisner is entitled to his opinion of the Life Skills classes. What I find so upsetting is that in presenting his view, he misrepresented me and the Life Skills curriculum. As a professional who works very hard to maintain high standards, I am seriously compromised by Mr. Eisner's misstatements.

Specifically, he stated: "Because Mrs. Wolfrum has never attended a Life Skills class she would like to have student input, concerning changes that need to be made." WRONG! I have attended many of the Life Skills classes; I never, ever stated otherwise. As the Health Education Coordinator it is part of my job to observe the Life Skills classes and to work with the Life Skills teachers to improve curriculum and to coordinate with the Life Skills teachers at the middle schools. Mr. Eisner's misstatement makes it look like I'm not doing my job and, worse yet, asking the students to do my job for me.

I DO WANT to hear from students about what they think of the course. I feel very strongly that it's important to have student input as we look to improve the Life Skills curriculum. And this brings me to Mr. Eisner's second misstatement. He states, "The first issue I would like to voice is that there is currently no written curriculum for the class. This means that aside from a few basic points, the Life Skills teachers can decide what they do in their classes." WRONG. There IS a written curriculum, copies of which have been at Cary Library and in the Life Skills offices since 1989. What I very carefully explained to Mr. Eisner is that the updated and revised curriculum outline is being reviewed by the Director of Curriculum and Evaluation and will not be available to the public until this spring.

Contrary to Mr. Eisner's erroneous assumption, the Life Skills curriculum was developed by an advisory group composed of teachers, parents and professionals including clergy members and physicians. The Life Skills teachers, who are certified health educators with over thirty years of combined teaching experience, update the curriculum on a regular basis. These updates are based on student feedback from course evaluation forms administered every semester as well as on the development of new curricula within the health education field.

In fact, the Life Skills teachers are very sensitive and responsive to student feedback. While Mr. Eisner asserts that "The new grading policy is also an attempt to scare students into participating," the FACT is that student feedback and comments precipitated this new policy. Many students felt that a standard pass/fail grade did not adequately reflect their work and participation and the teachers concurred.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage students to contact me with their impressions of the Life Skills classes. As the "new" Coordinator of Health Education I will eventually be making an umber of recommendations to the Superintendent and the school committee regarding Life Skills. Among them I will be advocating to change name of "Life Skills" to "Health Education" to better reflect the scope and content of the course. I will look forward to a meaningful dialogue about health education issues with LHS students--a dialogue grounded in fact and respect.

-Jennifer Wolfrum
Coordinator for Health Education

Moderator clears up confusion over Senate story

Dear Editor,

I am writing to correct some small but significant misstatements made in the January 25, 1995 article "Senate Has Flurry of New Bills." The Bathroom Resolution was in fact written by me with the help of Senior Senator Sarah Welch. At the actual Senate meeting, Ms. Welch presented the resolution alone because of my constitutional inability to voice my opinions before the Senate.

Regarding the Referendum Bill, I have no intention of reproposing the bill or supporting it. If it happens to appear before the Senate for a second cycle it will be by the initiative of other parties, not me.

As for a revised Community Service Bill, none exists to my knowledge. However, freshman Dave Lee and Tim Attanucci have begun researching a reasonable alternative to the Revised Forty Hour Community Service Bill.

Despite the incorrect statements about several of the Senate's bills, the general attitude of the Musket article towards the Senate certainly reflected the dynamic nature of this years administration.

-Dan MacLean
Senate Moderator

Smokers Corner Angers Student

As one drives down Muzzey street at 7:45 AM each morning, it is impossible to avoid noticing the large crowd which gathers at the far boundaries of Lexington High School. The area in which they congregate is referred to colloquially as "the smokers' corner." The students seem to find themselves drawn there. The last two years have witnessed increased turnouts at the corner. In fact, the 1994-95 school year marks the creation of a new smokers area located behind the student parking lot.

The logical conclusion is that there is a large population of smokers at LHS. But this is not the case. In a survey administered to 25 LHS students, the highest estimate of the school's smokers was fewer than 100, roughly 7% of the school's population. So why are the smoking areas more popular than ever? The answer is that smoking is once again believed to be trendy.

This trendiness is why many students refer to their smoking classmates, both on the corner and behind the school, as "the dregs" of LHS. Not only are the people on the corner slowly killing themselves, succumbing to the worst kind of addiction at a young age, but there are just as many of them who are lionizing their suicide. This audience is looked upon with equal disdain. It would be humorous if it weren't so sad. Something needs to be done.

Massachusetts State Law prohibits smoking on school grounds. Yet, at LHS, the smoking continues. Recently a Senate bill was defeated that would have granted those who smoke on the outer edges of the High School one week to clean their area up. The 'mootness' of the bill was its reason for defeat. The school cannot force its students to clean up after an activity that is illegal, explained Secretary Alyssa Rayman-Read. However, senator Jason Miller, the author of the bill, feels that these people "must respect the environment. They have been provided with the proper facilities, such as waste baskets, but continue to leave their butts on the street, or worse, throw them into the woods." Currently, the Senate Policy Committee plans to research the topic and determine why it is the administration refuses to enforce state law and how the problem of smoking in school can be solved.

This is clearly a step in the right direction. However, it doesn't strike at the core of the problem, which is the smokers lack of respect for themselves and others. Cigarette smoke represents a proven health hazard to both smokers and those who breathe in second hand smoke. Many students indicated they were afraid of the large groups, or in the case of the smoking area on Worthen road, students said they have to park their cars farther down on that road, in order to avoid having to walk by the group. The vast majority of the school is at the mercy of these few degenerates who hold us all hostage. It's time to fight back, utilizing both the Senate and some not so subtle scorn as means to a cleaner and safer end.

-Matt Kishlansky

We Want You!

(Yes, You)

MUSKET LAYOUT EDITOR

The Musket has already begun to mourn the loss of its distinguished Layout Editor of three years, Kunal G. Mehra, who will be leaving at the end of this year. However, If you feel that you possess the qualities necessary to fill the gaping crater left by the aforementioned paragon of desktop publishing, then apply for the position of Layout Editor.

Submit inquiries to Kunal in the Musket Box in the SAC or contact Mr. Kafrissen.

Faculty Comments on Wilson's Career

WILSON

Continued from page 3

involves money, and there just hasn't been any." Mr. Wilson noted that financial issues and are serious source of concern for LHS and that they have played the major role in the cutbacks.

One frequently cited complaint aired about Mr. Wilson's policies was related to his propensity towards creating committee forums to resolve conflicts and to create policy ideas. On this issue, Mr. William Meade stated, "There have been many committee reports, but they are often ignored or not involved in the actual decision." Debate teacher Les Phillips added that, "the staff at LHS is tired of committees which have led nowhere. However, this has been a trait at all levels of administration for the past decade." Dr. Young noted, too, that this has been a past trend for Lexington Administration.

Although viewed by some individuals as being ineffective, Mr. Wilson's various committee projects have contributed to his image of being a ready listener. Mr. Wilson has also demonstrated a willingness to deal with students on an individual basis.

"There have been many committee reports, but they are often ignored or not involved in the actual decision"

-Teacher William Meade

No one seemed to doubt that Wilson is leaving a school in very good shape. The learning bureaucracy, including a strong faculty and strong ties to the community, is in place. Now it is just a question of what the new principal will do to build on Wilson's successful tenure.

Senior Camille McGregor no doubt contemplates the fate of this year's freshmen, sophomores, and juniors which includes 300 more hours of school next year.

Photo by Josh Vacanti

Students Not Happy Over Longer Hours

by Erin Carlson

Effective September 1995, a new state mandate will require all students to be in school for a minimum of 990 hours for all core subjects. Currently, students attend core subjects for approximately 700 hours. Quick math reveals that students are on average 290 hours short, which is the equivalent of about 12 days of non-stop school (no eating, no sleeping, no t.v.). "Wow! That's a lot more hours," exclaims one concerned student, "Where will they all come from?" Good question. A committee, called the "Time and Learning Committee," has been established to find the answer.

Although the committee has much work to do in these next few months, rumors of draconian solutions haunt students' minds. Already confirmed changes include: a reduction in free blocks and the elimination of professional days. The law also requires that seniors graduate not more than 12 days before the end of school.

"It's not fair," laments freshman Michael Carlson, noting the community service increase bestowed upon his class, "We get stuck with all the bad stuff." Another freshman, David Oviatt concurs adding that, "school is long enough now... kids will just get more bored."

Some argue that increased hours is not the solution to the persistent problem of our declining schools. Junior Brandon Murakami argues that until "classes become more intensive and teachers improve the hours will simply be empty time. More hours is simply not the solution. The administration must also focus on what we do with those hours," Murakami explained.

Some students cited particular elements of the proposed plan that they opposed. Freshman Willie Howe reacted to the idea of shortened lunches, reporting that "lunches right now give you just enough time to eat." Gulping induced by shortened lunches could induce a frenzy of problems of intestinal magnitude.

Of course, not everyone dislikes the new policy. "Of course there should be more hours," explained Senior Armen Zohrabian whose probable graduation means that he will be unaffected. "The more time we are in school, the more information we can learn!" The policy has also made many other Seniors very happy. "We're getting out at just the right time...What a relief," Joshua Vacanti exclaimed.

Although his initial reaction to the policy was similar to those of his peers, one sophomore believed that the new policy is highly necessary. He maintains that "school was not serving its purpose now," and that "we [students] are not learning enough." He argued that increasing the attendance hours was a step in the right direction.

"There really is no logical reason not to have more hours. Especially given the cramped nature of curriculum as it stands now," concurred Junior Margot Minardi.

Regardless of student opinion, the policy will happen. The only question now is how those 300 more hours will be tacked onto the schedule.

Senior Thor Hansen belts out some blues on the saxophone during the recent Jazz Night which featured all of Lexington Jazz Groups.

Photo by Jay Premack

Successful Jazz Night Features Good Music

by Brian Koning

On Wednesday, February 15, the annual Jazz Nite Two was held before a small but vocal crowd in the High School Auditorium. As is the tradition, Jazz Nite Two was an evening of student compositions, ranging in complexity from the Middle School's "Untitled Blues" to the Combo's "Gray Magic." The night features Mr. Jeffrey Leanord's Jazz Improve Class and the Jazz Ensemble.

The evening started with a version of Matt Briggs' "Flea Bat Booze," rendered tastefully by the LHS Jazz Ensemble. Following on the heels of the Ensemble, the Middle School Band wowed the audience with their mastery of the blues. H-Block Jazz was next, taking the audience beyond the blues form and stretching the limits of everyone's collective music imagination, from Chris Manschreck's eloquent "Gadzooks" to the haunting strains of Charles Nokes' "Grandma's Hairy Chest." H-Block was followed by the D-Block group, which managed to soothe the audience with their unique brand of jazz-styled music. The B-Block Jazz class, among other things, featured the rhythmic gyrations and blues-flavored playings of shoeless "Monster" Mike Welch. The concert was concluded with an appearance by the LHS Jazz Combo, which features pianist Andrew Zimmer, trumpeters Brian Koning and Jack Gurman, saxophonist C.J. Dematteo, trombonist Peter Cole, guitarist Matt Joy, bassist Alec Derian, and drummer Matt Briggs.

Senior Armen Zohrabian, who witnessed the event, noted that, "It was really good. I think it shows what some practice can do. It was very interesting to see the progression from middle school to high school."

Another observer commented that, "the LHS jazz program has come a long way since it began, and in many ways the student compositions are more advanced than just a few years ago." He added, "It was unfortunate that more people did not attend the concert."

Boys' Track Runs Tough

by
Phil Oliff

The 1994-95 season was an unusual and unpredictable one for the Lexington boys' indoor track team. Because of the amount of talent that was lost to graduation, the squad realized that they would not be able to duplicate last years' 8-1 record even before the season began. When the '94-'95 campaign commenced the team was young, inexperienced, and uncertain about their future in the Middlesex League. The squad started off tentatively, facing some of the toughest competition in the league right away. After four meets the team's record stood at 1-3. Yet the next opponent was Watertown, a team regarded universally in track circles as the Middlesex League's perpetual doormat. Even without many key athletes, Lexington proceeded to steamroll Watertown and gained a great deal of confidence in the process. The team continued on to wipe out the weaker part of the Middlesex League, and after their final victory against Burlington their record stood at 5-4.

The Burlington meet was typical of the kind of meets that the Minutemen had faced all season. Burlington was not one of the powerhouses of the Middlesex League, however, entering the competition they held the same record as Lexington. Only about half of the team made the trip to compete, yet Lexington's fears were alleviated as they defeated Burlington by a comfortable margin, 50-36.

The meet began with the two mile run in which Sophomore Aron Adler finished third against stiff competition.

The high jump was the decisive event in the meet as Lexington swept with the trio of Sophomore Greg Costello, Senior Mark Reynolds, and Senior Aron Shapiro.

In the 1000 Senior Mike Broderick took first place, while Senior Josh Curtis, still in the process of recovering from a foot injury grabbed third.

In the 600 Junior Bryant Lee snatched up second place while Junior Phil Oliff grabbed third.

In the mile Junior Dave Myung ran an impressive race finishing second while Junior John Paul Mahoney pulled out third place.

The meet was clinched in the 60 yard dash where Shapiro and Junior Adam Fisher placed first and third respectively.

Next year, an infusion of new talent could give the team the boost they need to regain past dominance.

Senior Captain Mark Reynolds views the '94-'95campaign optimistically, "We got off to a slow start against some of the league's tougher teams, but as the year progressed the athletes on this team really came together, put out an effort,and ended the season on a positive note."

Boys indoor track team has had a hazy season, which finished with a 5-4 record.

Photo from Musket *file*

Senior Brek Kohler, who was recently named a Middlesex All-Star, helped lead the team to a playoff win over Billerica on March 1.

Photo from Musket *file*

Boys' Season Continues with Strong Tourney Win

by
J.R. Rudman

The Minutemen kept their playoff hopes alive with a 61-59 victory over the Billerica Indians on March 1. The team was led by senior captain Brek Kohler who scored 26 points. Seniors Jamie McDonald, Murad Wornum, Andy Costello, and Sophomore Nate Jaffee also played up to the occasion. Jaffee sealed the game in the closing seconds with two clutch free throws.

The team advances to play South Boston in the second round.

The victory was another twist in what is becoming one of the stranger seasons in LHS basketball history. The Grateful Dead once said "What a long strange trip it's been." While these song lyrics were not written with LHS basketball in mind, they are accurate when describing the Minutemen's 94-95 basketball season—a season which saw the team extend their year into the playoffs with a do or die victory over the Burlington Red Devils at Lexington on the February 17.

The victory, a win which put the Minutemen into the tournament for the 24th time in coach Bob Farias' 27 year career, came on the heels of a crushing defeat to a cocky Belmont team, which currently ranks in the Boston Globe's Top Ten Poll. Going into the Belmont contest, the Minutemen knew that they were at a distinct disadvantage from the last time the two teams had faced off, primarily because of the loss of star forward Jamal Holley and defensive stopper Dan Ridley. The void created by these players' absences has been filled by the impressive play of Freshman Taj Washington, and sSophomore Jon Mandle.

> "We're moving on. Don't count us out just yet...Our team is a tough draw for anyone."
>
> *-Coach Bob Farias*

The Minutemen would have to utilize these two "Young Guns" to their fullest potential if they were to have any hope of knocking off Belmont. However, Belmont proved to be too much as the Minutemen were defeated 92-67. The two bright spots in the contest for Lexington were once again Washington and Mandle, scoring 14 and 16 points respectively and giving the team and their fans something to look forward to when the Minutemen faced off against Burlington three nights later in the final regular season game.

Coach Bob Farias described the Burlington matchup as "the first round of the playoffs for us," and he was right on target. The team's task was clear: a win assured a spot in the playoffs while a loss closed the season and left them waiting for next year. However, there would be no next year for seniors Andy Costello, Chris O'Connell, Jamie Macdonald, Frank Carlow, Murad Wornum, and captain Brek Kohler. The team knew that to win they were going to have to get some quality minutes from all of the players, especially Wornum and Kohler, both of whom were named to the Middlesex League All-Star team. Lexington got just that performance they were looking for: Kohler contributed 7 rebounds to go along with his 17 points and Wornum contributed 9 points of his own to go along with 9 rebounds and 3 big blocks. When the final horn sounded the Minutemen had themselves a 64-50 victory.

After the game, a pleased coach Farias said, "We're moving on. Don't count us out just yet...Our team is a tough draw for anyone."

Hockey Team Finishes Off Tough Middlesex Season

by
Jeff Needham

The boys' hockey team completed a disappointing season this year amassing a record of 3-15. The Minutemen, however, faced some exceptional competition in the Middlesex League as four of the ten teams were ranked in the top twenty in the Boston Globe Coaches Poll.

The hockey team notched wins this year over Winchester and Watertown (twice). Their 5-3 win over Winchester was impressive due to the exciting come from behind style in which they won. Led by sophomore forward Brian Delaney, the Minutemen scored four goals in the last five minutes to win the game. Also, in the first win over Watertown (6-0) Senior assistant captain goalie Mike Kidney recorded his first career shutout. The Minutemen beat Watertown a second time by another close margin of 3-2.

Unfortunately, the squad did not stand up as well to the rest of the league, dropping two games to Woburn, Belmont, Stoneham, Burlington, Melrose, Wakefield, and Reading and one to Winchester.

This season was a disappointment following a surprising and successful season last year.

Despite the losses, the Minutemen sent two players to this year's all-star game. Junior captain defenseman John Saunders whose strong defense helped carry the team to its victories, and Junior assistant captain forward Todd Spellman represented the blue and gold at the all-star game. Spellman provided many key goals this season lifting the morale of the squad when it fell low.

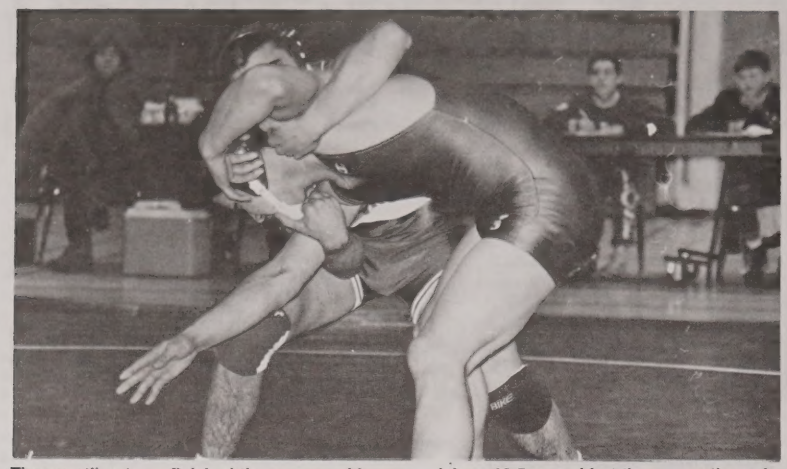
This year's team was very young as only three seniors will be leaving.

This leaves a talented cast of underclassmen to do the job next year. With many other teams losing star players look for Lexington to be in the hunt next year.

"This year was tough, but the team really stuck together and played well in some tough losses," summed up Senior Nathan Jauvtis.

The Hockey team has managed to slip past just three opponents this year en route to a 3-15 record.

Photo from Musket *file*



The wrestling team finished the season with an auspicious 16-5 record but they came through in the postseason tournament with the Division 1 Central Championship.

Photo by Jay Premack

Wrestling Team Wins Division 1 Central Crown

by
Ron Abrons

After going 20-2 and winning Middlesex League title during the1993-93 season, the Lexington High School Wrestling team came into this season with experience as champions. With hard work and Coach Kevin Russo's "stick to the basics" ideology, the team had another great year, finishing the regular season at 16-5, with a first place finish at the West-Roxbury Tournament. Leading the team were quad captains Seniors Dustin Ward, Ryan Benoit, and Ron Abrons, and Junior Carmine Rullo.

A key to Lexington's success was its youth as freshmen Joel French, Ricardo Rullo, Ralph Munoz,Hoe McCann, and Alex Samuels all helped to fill holes in the varsity lineup. Also, starting at 125 and 135 pounds respectively, were freshmen Ben Ruquist and Nick Campisi. After an injury to promising Senior Matt Renna, Ruquist was called on to take 125 full-time and became the first freshman in school history to become a sectional champion.

At 103 pounds, Ron D'Abbraccio started all but one match out with a Lexington victory as the sophomore made himself known throughout the league and the section. Other varsity sophomores included Billy Wright at 112 pounds, David Abrons at 145, Andrew DuBeau at 160, and Blaine McGivern at 189. Wright's high point was his first place finish at the West-Roxbury Tournament and Dubeau provided one of the year's most exciting matches as he pinned senior Dierkus Anthony to place fifth in the sectional tournament.

"People had their doubts about this year's team. But I think our championship season confirms that Lexington wrestling is stronger than ever."

-Junior wrestler Jon Schwartz

The team's success next season relies greatly on future seniors Jon Schwartz, Ben Fitts, Rob Lee, and Carmine Rullo. All placed in the sectional tournament, with Lee coming in third at 140 pounds and Rullo taking home a championship trophy at 130. With an undefeated record of 36-0 on the season, Rullo was unstoppable and placed first in every tournament.

Veteran Senior Ron Abrons, Dustin Ward, and Ryan Benoit rounded out the varsity lineup. At heavyweight, Benoit placed second in the Middlesex League Tournament and at 171, Ward placed second in all four of the season's tournaments.

The season ended on a high note for the wrestling team as they accomplished yet another first, becoming the first team in Lexington history to take home the Division 1 Central sectional title. In all, ten wrestlers placed in the top six, including four finalists, and Coach Russo earned Coach of the Year honors.

All place-winners earned a trip to the two-day state tournament where Rullo led the team with a fourth place finish to end the year.

Schwartz summed up the season, "People had their doubts about this year's team. But I think our championship season confirms that Lexington wrestling is stronger than ever."

Minutemaids Reign Supreme

by
Stefanie Berman

Although the Minutemaids closed their regular season with a disappointing 48-53 loss to the Burlington Lady Devils, they have gone on to win their first game in post season MIAA Tournament play and are gearing up for the second on Saturday, March 4. In the first game for the fifth seeded Minutemaids on Tuesday, February 28, in the Ralph Lord Gymnasium, the team pulled away in the second half, defeating the Bishop Fenwick opponents 60-52. The second round matchup places the Maids up against fourth seeded Methuen. Whatever happens in tournament play, the Minutemaids will still be proud to boast a 16-4 (15-3 ML) record and an exciting and intense season of play.

In the Bishop Fenwick game, the squad started off slowly, but after halftime pumped up the pace holding Bishop Fenwick to only 18 second half points. Behind the 18 points of freshman Andrea Pawlicek, the team capitalized on Fenwick turnovers and pulled away with the victory.

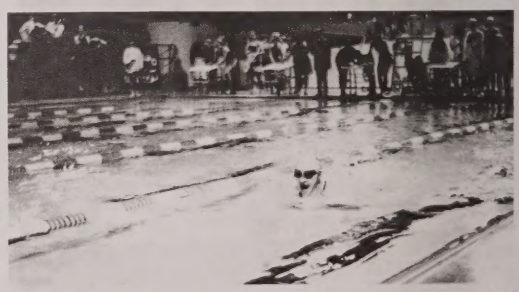
"The team has had great work ethic all year," said a pleased Coach Laura Lasa. "They played a great second half out there."

The loss to the Burlington squad was the first home loss in 26 games and prevented Lexington from achieving their second consecutive Middlesex League Championship. With the home court advantage, Lexington got things started early in the game, but by halftime the Lady Devils had gained momentum. Going into the second half, the Minutemaids were down only one, 23-22, but Burlington's tight defense and physical play inside stifled several of Lexington's offensive plays. Keeping the game close and making it an intense battle down to the final buzzer, senior tri-captains Jessica Hurt with 11 points and Julie Bonner with 13 rebounds led the Lexington bid.

The success of Lexington's 94-95 season was keyed by the combination of the core of starters and battery of players off the bench. The starting powerhouse of Hurt, Bonner, senior tri-captain Katherine Westfall, sophomore Jackie Yerardi, and Pawlicek allowed for Lexington to plow over several Middlesex League opponents. Off the bench seniors Courtney Walton, Darlene Meehan, and Meg Catterall and junior Kareen Kreutziger logged crucial minutes throughout the season for Coach Laura Lasa.

Three members of the Lexington squad, Hurt, Bonner, and Yerardi were selected for the Middlesex League All-Star team.

"For the season, we achieved way beyond all expectations," commented Hurt. "We're really proud that we proved ourselves to people around the Middlesex League."



LHS boys' swimmers finished the season as Middlesex League Champions!

Photo from Musket *File*

The girls' basketball team continues to roll through the postseason with their defeat of Bishop Fenwick by a score of 60-52 in the first round of the playoffs.

Photo from Musket *File*

Girl's Track Runs Strong

by
Shira Miller-Jacobs

After a crushing defeat by Burlington on Saturday February February 11, the girls' track team made an impressive showing at the Class A Meet the following week. Twelve girls ventured to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology track to represent Lexington in this important event. They returned proud recipients of numerous medals.

In the 4 X 800 relay, Gayle Holt, Caroline Kasparian, Amy Porter, and Amanda Hopkins ran a quick 10:08, enabling them to take second place. This finish qualified them for the All-State meet held at Harvard on February 25. The relay team wasn't able to compete at that meet however.

Shani Graham ran an impressive fifth place in the dash, qualifying her for All-States as well where she finished seventh. Running the hurdles for Lexington were Michele Guinane and Kim Barnes. Both girls did extremely well continuing on to All-States, with Guinane finishing 6th even while stumbling over the last hurdle.

The 4 x 400 relay team, consisting of Holt, Kasparian, Julie Howell, and Amy Archidiacono came in seventh. Sophomore Sarah Day ran an amazing two mile, placing her fourth with a personal best of 12:28.2. Senior tri-captain Suzanne Rommelfanger and junior Lili Anderson also did well in the high jump and one mile, respectively.

These two events signaled the end of another successful indoor track season. Overall, the team ended its season with a record of 5-4, with 12 girls competing at the Class A Meet and seven qualifying for the All-States.

Varsity Scoreboard

as of March 3, 1995

Team	W-L-T
Indoor Track	
Boys'	5-4
Girls'	5-4
Hockey	3-15-0
Wrestling	16-5
Basketball	
Boys'	10-9
Girls'	17-4
Boys' Swimming	7-0